

SENATE BILL 2406

By Johnson

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49,
relative to computer science education.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-1-232, is amended by deleting the section and substituting:

To ensure that all students are fully prepared for the technological jobs of today and in the future, the department of education shall:

(1) Provide an online computer science course, in which public school students across the state may enroll at no charge to satisfy the requirements of § 49-6-1010, if the course is approved by the state board of education;

(2) Submit to the state board for approval, instructional materials for computer science education that are aligned to the state's computer science academic standards, and that may be used by a student enrolled in an LEA or public charter school to meet the requirements of § 49-6-1010;

(3) Subject to available funding, provide, at no charge to educators, a computer science education professional development program for educators that includes professional learning modules to provide educators with the opportunity to learn and demonstrate competency in computer science education by earning a micro-credential for purposes of § 49-1-302(k). As used in this subdivision (3), "micro-credential" means a competency-based recognition of demonstrated mastery by grade band, receipt of which results in an endorsement for computer science education pursuant to § 49-1-302(k);

(4) Subject to available funding, provide incentives for schools and educators to offer high-quality professional development opportunities for educators in computer science education and to offer high-quality computer science education for students; and

(5) Create a computer science education network that may be integrated into the science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) school designation and Tennessee STEM Innovation Network regional hubs.

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 1, Part 3, is amended by adding the following as a new section:

The department of education shall, no later than the 2023-2024 school year, submit to the state board of education for approval comprehensive academic standards for computer science education that must be included in the computer science curriculum for students in grades kindergarten through twelve (K-12).

SECTION 3. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-1-302(k), is amended by deleting the subsection and substituting:

(k)

(1) The department of education shall develop and submit to the state board of education for approval an endorsement in computer science for individuals enrolled in a state board approved educator preparation program who demonstrate sufficient content knowledge in the course material.

(2) The department shall develop and submit to the state board of education for adoption standards for professional learning modules that prepare educators to teach computer science education and that provide educators with the opportunity to demonstrate competency in computer science education by earning a micro-credential. As used in this subdivision (k)(2), "micro-credential"

means a competency-based recognition of demonstrated mastery by grade band, receipt of which results in an endorsement for computer science education pursuant to this subsection (k).

(3) The state board shall develop a process for educators to earn an endorsement for computer science education based on a computer science micro-credential earned by educators pursuant to subdivision (k)(2).

SECTION 4. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-6-1010, is amended by deleting the section and substituting:

(a) In order for every student for whom it is educationally appropriate to receive instruction in computer science sufficient to enable the student to communicate and to be prepared for the technological jobs of today and tomorrow, the state board of education shall require that, no later than the 2024-2025 school year:

(1) High school students receive one (1) full school year of computer science education to satisfy graduation requirements;

(2) Middle school students receive one (1) course in computer science education that includes instruction for a minimum of one (1) grading period per school day for one (1) full school year based on the academic standards for computer science education adopted by the state board; and

(3) Elementary school students receive grade-appropriate computer science education based on the academic standards in computer science education adopted by the state board.

(b) Beginning with students enrolled in the ninth grade for the 2024-2025 school year, high school students must receive a full year of computer science education in order to receive a traditional high school diploma.

(c) A student who transfers to a Tennessee public school from another state during the student's senior year of high school is exempt from subsection (b).

SECTION 5. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-6-6004, is amended by deleting the section and substituting:

(a) By the 2024-2025 school year, the state board of education shall approve appropriate computer science courses that LEAs and public charter schools may offer to students to satisfy the requirements in § 49-6-1010.

(b) As used in this section, "computer science courses" includes, but is not limited to, grade-appropriate instruction in software engineering, computer programming, computer graphics and design, and computer-aided design.

SECTION 6. The state board of education may promulgate rules, including emergency rules, to effectuate this act. The rules must be promulgated in accordance with the Uniform Administrative Procedures Act, compiled in Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 4, Chapter 5.

SECTION 7. This act takes effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.